

ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a method and apparatus which facilitates the use of existing power that is ordinarily unused or discarded to provide power to a telephone interface circuit when the circuit is in the on-hook state, thereby alleviating the need to use loop current to power the interface during the on-hook state. Existing clock signals are used to charge capacitors that are normally used for capacitive coupling of digital data across the high voltage isolation barrier. Although only small-value capacitors are needed for transmitting data across the capacitive interface, larger-value capacitors are used and are configured to form a charge pump to generate power to the interface at all times. Thus the interface always has a steady source of power available for use, including during the on-hook state for powering circuitry that can detect, modulate, and transmit on-hook signals across the capacitive interface.

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